THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

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CHAPTERS AND OFFICERS

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TOLEDO—*John N. Richards, 518 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, Ohio; †Mark B. Stophlet, Security Bank Bldg., Toledo, Ohio.

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WESTCHESTER—*Kenneth K. Stowell, 28 Tanglewylde Ave., Bronxville, New York; †Robert H. Scannell, 80 Palmer Ave., Bronxville, New York.

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THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Executive and Publication Offices, The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Closing the Year 1938

THE attention of the membership is called to the statement concerning the Williamsburg competition, on page 5 of this number of THE OCTAGON. It is self-explanatory, and should be read by every member of The Institute.

This last number of THE OCTAGON for 1938 is used, in accord with custom, to complete the published record of Institute activities for the current year.

The September number was in fact an annuary embracing the committee personnels, alphabetical and chapter rolls of members, various official documents, and general data. It contained ninety-two pages and although it cut deeply into the year's appropriation for printing and overhead, its value to the membership justified the extra cost. These circumstances have resulted in the omission of a leading article and other material held for publication in this number.

The response to the request for a monthly news letter from chapter secretaries has been so generous that it becomes necessary to brief some of the replies in order to publish as many as possible. It is hoped that this interest will continue so that the membership may be kept informed of the activities of the various chapters throughout the country.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting of The Board of Directors held in Washington on November 14-17, inclusive, are now being prepared. That record is not published, but it is available at The Octagon for any member who wishes to consult it and to be informed about all transactions of The Board.

At the Board meeting the progress reports of the chairmen of the Administrative, Standing and Special Committees were received, considered and acted upon.

A budget for the year 1939 was adopted; and preliminary arrangements were made for the Convention of 1939.

Information concerning the Convention and its many interesting features, which will be coordinated with the program of the XV International Congress of Architects, will begin to appear in THE OCTAGON early in 1939.

It is not too soon to suggest that you reserve the week beginning September 24, 1939, for a visit to Washington for the purpose of attending the Seventy-first Convention of The Institute, the XV International Congress of Architects, the various functions to be held in connection therewith, and incidentally, following the Convention and the Congress, the World's Fair, to be held in New York.

The Secretary takes this opportunity to make general acknowledgment of the interest of the members in THE OCTAGON and to invite their suggestions for its improvement so that it may merit their continued interest in the coming year.

CHARLES T. INGHAM,
Secretary.

Public Information

Suggested Work Program for Chapter Committees on Public Information

By William Orr Ludlow, Chairman, Committee on Public Information

Foreword.

The Committee on Public Information urges that a careful study be made of the many suggestions made in this program, by all Institute members who believe that the public should be informed as to what the architect is and what the architect does.

It is our belief that by such a study may be found items that are applicable to almost all local conditions, and that new interest in the possibilities of the spread of public information by *all* chapters of The Institute may be awakened.

1. Provide your local press with articles and news items.

(*a*) Arrange with local newspaper editors for a series of articles written and signed by local architects on subjects relating to the architecture and building of the small house; on city planning, housing, zoning, building codes, government building loans, etc. This program may possibly be best accomplished through a Sunday page or column every week.

(*b*) Send news items to the press, including reports of chapter meetings and activities and of events of local or general interest which have to do with architecture or building. These spot news reports should be ready for publication immediately after the event, and should be prepared and distributed to the press beforehand whenever possible, with date of release indicated.

(*c*) Establish contact with news and real estate editors to ascertain their editorial needs; suggest names of local architects who may be interviewed. The chairman of the Chapter's Committee on Public Information should be available to these editors at all times.

(*d*) Provide the press with material on new buildings or local structures of historical interest; include glossy prints of the buildings or of the designs and descriptions by the designers where possible. The pictures and information issued by the Historic American Buildings Survey make excellent press material. For information apply to their local or state office, or to Leicester B. Holland, Chairman of The Institute's Committee on the Preservation of Historic Buildings, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. In using the material, give due credit to the Historic American Buildings Survey architects.

(*e*) Suggest that all pictures and descriptions of builders be accompanied by designer's name. (Form letter on this subject can be obtained from The Secretary of The Institute.)

(*f*) Conform to acceptable forms of presentation of news items and articles. A study of news stories in daily and Sunday papers with reference to each news department, such as real estate, finance, etc., is recommended. (The Publicist of The Institute will be glad to advise with regard to specific problems and prepare releases as requested by local chapters.)

2. Send to James T. Grady, Publicist of The Institute, 2929 Broadway, New York City, all items and statements from architects which have more than local interest, a copy of the minutes of every meeting of your chapter, and reports of new or otherwise interesting activities.

3. Select each year through a competent jury the three best local buildings, one in each class—public, commercial, residential—and send photographs to local press with description, method of selection, reason for selection, etc.

4. Suggest to schools, colleges, libraries and museums the advantages of holding architectural exhibitions with awards of prizes or mentions, suggest to the chapter that it sponsor "Home Shows", and give wide publicity to these events.

5. Suggest the use of the leaflet "The Value of The Architect" issued by the Committee on Public Information. More than fifteen thousand of these have been ordered by architects, builders, producers of building materials, etc., and have been used in the following ways:

Architects—to send to prospective clients.

Chapters—to send in quantity to architectural exhibitions, home shows, etc. (One chapter has ordered five thousand for distribution at a home show.)

Building supply dealers—to show to customers, and to frame and hang in their offices.

Folded copies for mailing may be obtained from the Executive Secretary of The Institute at $1.75 per hundred, and flat copies for framing can be furnished at two cents a copy. (Simple framing, done locally, usually costs about ninety cents.)

6. Ascertain what the local high schools or colleges are doing about courses in architecture and confer with the superintendent of schools, or the college president, about the possibility of ten minute talks by local architects on architectural subjects such as "Architecture as a Vocation", etc.

7. Radio broadcasting stations will often give time to architects for a single talk or a series of short talks, if the subjects proposed are of practical and general interest, especially in the small house and housing fields. The committee will furnish material for such talks.

8. The Committee on Public Information will send regularly news items or articles of interest to your local press.

9. Urge chapter members to take an active part in local affairs, particularly in matters of civic improvement, where their special knowledge will command respect.

10. Group advertising of suitable kind is ethical and may be helpful. A series of group advertising statements with cuts and text to make a complete program has been prepared by Gottschaldt-Humphrey Co. of 233 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

Statement By The Committee on Architectural Competitions

NOTICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP: THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT EXPLAINS THE INSTITUTE'S ATTITUDE WITH RESPECT TO PROMOTIONAL COMPETITIONS, AND GIVES NOTICE OF DISAPPROVAL OF THE COMPETITION FOR A "FESTIVAL THEATRE AND FINE ARTS BUILDING" AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY, WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

CHARLES T. INGHAM, *Secretary*.

THE American Institute of Architects, realizing that the competitive selection of an architect was a method long established and of undoubted permanency, decided some thirty years ago to assume control of competitions for the protection of their members, of the owner, and of the profession at large; and to that end formulated certain methods of procedure mandatory for their own members, as The Institute naturally cannot assume to dictate an owner's course in the conduct of a competition.

An exception to these established methods was made in the case of competitions held by Architectural Schools and similar institutions, which were termed educational in character.

By degrees the term Educational was stretched to and beyond its limits. Competitions began to be held by manufacturers, material dealers, and the like, which were at first approved by the Committee on Architectural Competitions because they did not lead to the erection of any actual structure, and because the prizes offered were an incentive to the younger members of the profession.

This early approval was later modified by a ruling that it was not the policy of The Institute to grant its official approval to competitions of this type, but that participancy of their members was not denied, either as Competitor, Jury member, or as Professional Adviser.

But advantage has been taken of this liberal attitude of The Institute by the holding of open competitions to bolster the raising of funds for possibly worthy but vague semi-public propositions; these competitions being based on the exemption from Code requirements under the term Educational. In some cases there have been definite stipulations that the winner would be appointed architect if and when sufficient funds were raised, but often the only incentive was the generally insufficient prize money offered. And of late there has been a tendency on the part of architectural magazines to sponsor and conduct these competitions.

The Institute authorities are seriously considering whether or not the interests of the profession would be better served by their complete disassociation from all competitions that do not lead directly to the erection of any actual structure. They are hesitant to take any step that would de-

prive the younger members of the profession of the experience they might gain and the prizes they might capture in the simpler type of competition promoted for its advertising possibilities by those financially interested in the building trades; by magazines offering prizes for housing or other developments; or by institutions for purely altruistic purposes: For although few Institute members enter these competitions as competitors, it is the custom of their proponents to appoint, as Professional Advisers and Jury, well-known architects for the prestige of their names, and such appointment would be prevented if The Institute withdrew the qualified approval they now give.

It may be that means will be found to meet this condition by the formation of a subordinate class of competition, held under the strict control of The Institute; but it can be stated definitely that The Institute does not look with favor on competitions held mainly for publicity in the hope of raising funds for vague operations that may never materialize, and for which there is no definite assurance of a future contract; nor upon competitions that do not provide for full architectural services; nor do they approve the action of architectural magazines in sponsoring or conducting architectural competitions, considering this an intrusion on the rights of the profession to conduct and be responsible for their own operations, and as prejudicial to the interests of The Institute and of the profession at large.

This attitude of The Institute, for some time under consideration, was finally determined by the methods adopted by the proponents of three important competitions recently held. In the case of the two first, the approval of The Institute was sought through Sub-Committees on Architectural Competitions, and after certain changes in the program, this approval was reluctantly granted. In the third case, a competition for a "Festival Theatre and Fine Arts Building" at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., The Institute's approval was not sought, though there was implication in the program that being Educational in character, it had the quasi approval of The Institute, an approval that it could not have secured.

The Institute authorities here express their disapproval of this competition and deny the participancy of their members in jury service, but do not deny participancy as competitors, this exception being made because of the late issuance of this order.

The Committee on Architectural Competitions views with increasing concern the cost to competitors in the mandatory submission of unnecessary drawings, and has decided to instruct the Sub-Committees to insist upon the reduction to a minimum of the number of drawings, and upon their simplicity of presentation; and will recommend that The Institute issue for the information of those concerned a revised and simplified Circular of Information.

The Committee takes this opportunity to call again to the attention of all Professional Advisers and Sub-Committees the necessity of reporting promptly to this Committee, or to The Octagon, all details of competitions in which they are concerned.

There is also under consideration the necessary indication of Institute approval by the adoption of a special form of cover for competition programs, suitably inscribed, or by the affixing of a conspicuous seal upon the cover or front page of the program.

Board of Zoning Adjustment Created

THE Technical Secretary of the Structural Service Department of The Institute, Theodore Irving Coe, has been elected Chairman of the Board of Zoning Adjustment of the District of Columbia, recently created by Act of Congress. The other members of the Board are: Captain Hugh P. Orem, Executive Officer of the Zoning Commission (elected Vice-Chairman of the Board); John Nolen, Jr., Director of Planning of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Harry Blake, member of the Board of Directors, Barber and Ross; John R. Lapham, Dean of the School of Engineering of George Washington University.

Under terms of the revised District zoning law all meetings of the Board will be open to the public.

The Supervising Architect

AN event of interest to architects was announced on December 20th, concerning the appointment, effective January 1, 1939, of Mr. LeRoy Barton, A. I. A., as Acting Supervising Architect of the Public Buildings Branch, Procurement Division, in addition to his present duties as an Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury.

After forty years of distinguished service, during which time he has endeared himself to all who have worked with him and known him, Louis H. Simon, F. A. I. A., will retire on June 1, 1939 to enjoy the life of leisure and freedom from official duty he has so richly earned. During the interim between January first and June first Mr. Barton will have the benefit of Mr. Simon's long experience in administrative and technical matters pertaining to the conduct of the office.

Mr. Barton was born in New York City in 1887, and was married in 1914 to Miss Ann Parfitt, a daughter of Walter E. Parfitt, a well known architect of Brooklyn. His preparatory schooling was in New York City, and his architectural training was in the Atelier Prévot, supplemented by foreign travel and study. He entered actively the practice of architecture in New York City in 1907, and from 1912 until 1934, when he joined the Treasury Department, was associated with Aymar Embury II. He held a commission in the U. S. Army from 1917 to 1920, and rendered distinguished military service. He holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Officers Reserve Corps, and is a graduate of the U. S. Army Command and Staff School.

An official of the Treasury Department pays this tribute to the new Acting Supervising Architect:

"Through these many and varied activities Mr. Barton has acquired an invaluable experience that peculiarly equips him to discharge the many responsibilities of organization, administration and public relationships that his new position imposes.

"The architectural profession will feel a sense of satisfaction in knowing that Mr. Barton is an architect who in word and deed has always observed the highest professional standards; who understands and is sympathetic with the problems of the architect, and who for the four and a half years he has been assigned to the Procurement Division as an Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, has consistently labored to improve the quality of architectural design and construction method in public buildings; to further a better understanding on the part of the public of the value of capable architectural service, and to develop a more sympathetic relationship between the professional, industrial and commercial elements of the construction industry. As in the case of his predecessor, the architectural profession has a worthy friend in Mr. Barton.

"Mr. Barton has been a member of The American Institute of Architects since 1921, and of the Architectural League of New York since 1914."

Notice - Institute By-Laws Amendment

THE Board made the following amendment to the By-laws in the nature of an editorial correction to adjust a provision which was at variance with other provisions therein. This amendment became effective April 18, 1938:

Chapter III, Article 2, Section 3, paragraph (*b*):—Delete the words "notify him of the election and". The paragraph now reads:

"(*b*) *Acceptance of Honorary Membership.* When a nominee has been elected, The Secretary shall ascertain from him if he desires to accept the honor. If he accepts, then The Secretary shall request him to be present at the next annual convention for the presentation of his membership certificate."

Competitions For The Prizes of Rome

THE American Academy in Rome announces its annual competitions for fellowships in architecture, landscape architecture, painting, sculpture, musical composition and classical studies.

The stipend of each fellowship is $1,250 a year with an allowance of $300 for transportation to

and from Rome and $200 to $300 to fellows in the fine arts for materials and incidental expenses. Residence and studio are provided without charge at the Academy, and the total estimated value of each fellowship is about $2,000 a year.

Application blanks may be obtained from Roscoe Guernsey, Executive Secretary, American Academy in Rome, 101 Park Avenue, New York.

Steedman Fellowship Competition For Foreign Travel

THE Governing Committee of the James Harrison Steedman Memorial Fellowship in Architecture announces the 13th annual competition.

The Fellowship offers an award of $1,500.00 to assist qualified architectural graduates to benefit by a year abroad devoted to the study of architecture in foreign countries. It is open to all graduates of recognized architectural schools, who are between the ages of 21 and 31 at the time of appointment, and who have had at least a year's practical work in the office of a St. Louis architect.

Applications may be obtained from the Secretary of the School of Architecture, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

The Francis J. Plym Fellowships

BY authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois the committee in charge announces the twenty-sixth competition for the award of the Francis J. Plym Fellowship in Architecture and the sixteenth competition for the award of the Plym Foreign Fellowship in Architectural Engineering. The value of each Fellowship is twelve hundred dollars to be used toward defraying the expenses for one year in Europe for the study of architecture or architectural engineering.

Apply to Professor L. H. Provine, Dept. of Architecture, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

Necrology—Members, Fellows and Honorary Members

AS reported to The Institute from December 1, 1937, to December 15, 1938. Please report any omissions to The Secretary.

FELLOWS

Conway, Wm. H.
Dawson, Chas. Wilmott
Dodge, Edwin S.
Foeller, Henry A.
Hammond, George F.
Hough, William C.
Hunt, Sumner P.
Klauder, Charles Z.
LaFarge, C. Grant
Phelps, Albert C.
Rice, Arthur Wallace
Stratton, William

MEMBERS

Best, Thomas D.
Bickley, George H.
Bryson, R. H.
Calrow, Charles J.
Coffin, Arthur S.
Cole, Chester
Devlin, Edward A.
Dunne, W. Scott
Fontaine, Walter F.
Frewen, Frank W.
German, Frederick G.
Greenfield, Robert A.
Helmle, George B.
Holden, Lansing C., Jr.
Hopkins, James C.
Hunt, R. H.
Jacoby, George W.
Kennedy, Ernest

MEMBERS (Continued)

Knighton, W. C.
Lawrence, Warrington G.
Mueller, Gustave A.
Olmsted, Walter B.
Pfeiffer, George L.
Pope, Lester B.
Pringle, R. S.
Rhines, G. V.
Russell, Ambrose J.
Schlacks, Henry J.
Seutter, Carl V.
Shrigley, Arthur
Stearns, George R.
Trumbauer, Horace
Walker, John A.

HONORARY CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Boni, Gaicomo
Blomfield, Arthur Conran
Sone, Tatzuzo

HONORARY MEMBERS

Mellon, Andrew W.
Warren, Edward Prioleau

Whitaker, Charles Harris, Editor of The Journal of The American Institute of Architects from 1913 to 1927.

With the Chapters

News Notes from Chapter Secretaries

Alabama.

The Autumn quarterly meeting was held, as is customary, at the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, with the school faculty, headed by Dean F. C. Biggin as hosts.

The meeting was called to order at 11 a. m. by the President of the Chapter and routine business of the Chapter was taken up and discussed. This included a complete discussion of the proposed revisions to the existing State Law concerning Registration of Architects. Reports were heard from various standing committees, including the committee on public information which is working in collaboration with a similar committee of the State Registered Architects Association toward an advertising campaign to be conducted in the various State daily newspapers. A recess was called at 1 p. m. at which time members of the Chapter were guests of the Faculty at luncheon. The meeting reconvened at 2 p. m. for a lecture accompanied by colored slides of photographs of the famous Bellingrath Gardens near Mobile, Alabama. The lecture was given by George B. Rogers, A. I. A., of Mobile, a member of the Chapter, who is in charge of the design of this unique landscape development.

Jack B. Smith, *President*

Arizona.

The Arizona Chapter submits its first report. One of the newest, we are as a Chapter only two years old. The membership includes nine Institute members, eleven associates and four junior associates, about equally divided between Tucson and Phoenix. Meetings are held in Tucson one month, Phoenix the next. Occasionally a member goes by air to a meeting, but generally two or three groups drive together when going to the other city. The trip takes about two and one-half hours and the members enjoy the social contact such a drive affords.

While for sometime many of us wanted a Chapter in Arizona, the Tucson group put forth more effort toward the realization of one, so Tucson has been designated the Chapter headquarters. Our first President was Roy Place of Tucson. He and M. H. Starkweather of Tucson and Royal Lescher and Leslie Mahoney of Phoenix had been associated for quite a period with the Southern California Chapter. Later Richard Morse of Tucson and Fred Whittlesey of Phoenix became associates and later assigned members of that Chapter. When our own Chapter was organized its charter members included these men and Thoralf Sundt temporarily with us from Philadelphia. We enjoyed his friendship and have missed him since his return East. Our membership has increased and will so continue to grow.

Leslie Mahoney is President this year; Starkweather, Morse, and Whittlesey are the other officers.

Since the inception of our Chapter we have found increased friendship and understanding which thoroughly have justified its formation. We Arizona men look forward to broadening our personal acquaintances throughout The Institute.

As for our activities, to date these have been directed toward improved registration laws, the small house problem and an architectural show to be held this winter in Phoenix and Tucson, perhaps in other Arizona towns.

Until later, greetings from the Arizona Chapter.

Fred W. Whittlesey, *Secretary*

Boston.

The November meeting of the Boston Chapter was for the benefit of students from the architectural departments of Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of New Hampshire and from the Boston Architectural Club.

The speakers were: Dean Joseph Hudnut of Harvard, Dean William Emerson of M. I. T., Professor Eric T. Huddleston of the U. of N. H., President Charles G. Loring of the Architectural Club, Mr. H. Daland Chandler, and a representative of the undergraduate body from each group. The subject matter of all speakers was an expression of the points of view of the educator, student, and the architect, primarily to indicate how all three may work together to the best advantage for the benefit of the younger men about to start in the practice of architecture. 137 members and guests were present at this meeting.

The Chairman of the Committee on Registration

reported that the Committee is planning to send out a series of three circulars to arouse the activity of the profession in favor of Registration. Consultations with Mayor Tobin indicated that an expression of interest of a substantial kind is necessary and that an agent would be of no value without strong activity and the support of the profession.

STANLEY E. DAVIDSON, *Secretary*

Brooklyn.

The October meeting of the Brooklyn Chapter will long be remembered by the thirty-four members present as one of the most enjoyable in its history.

The meeting was in the form of a testimonial dinner to the Chapter's five distinguished Fellows, Alexander Mackintosh, J. Monroe Hewlett, T. Edward Snook, Sr., John B. Slee and William P. Bannister, some of whom had not been with us for a long time. Mr. William P. Bannister, because of illness was unable to be present, and his Fellows greeted him by night letter.

The President, Ralph M. Rice, introduced each of the Fellows with appropriate remarks, and each in turn gave a most interesting talk and reminisced of Brooklyn Chapter days of long ago.

Announcement was made of the passing of one of our distinguished members and Past President, Mr. Robert Hassey Bryson, and resolutions were formulated and forwarded to the family of the deceased and to The American Institute of Architects.

A large number of members of the Brooklyn Chapter attended the Convention of the New York State Association of Architects, held at the Pennsylvania Hotel on October 27, 28 and 29, and Robert Schirmer, Brooklyn Chapter delegate, gave a detailed account of the activities which took place.

HENRY V. MURPHY, *Secretary*

Central New York.

The annual meeting of the Central New York Chapter was held at the College of Architecture, Cornell University, October 8, 1938.

Professor Edward Lawson of the Faculty of Architecture showed the colored lantern slides of European gardens he collected last summer.

Regional Director Richard H. Shreve, was a visitor and urged the members to try to attend The Institute Convention in Washington next September.

One of the members of the Chapter suggested that the balance of Chapter funds on hand was in excess of that necessary or desirable (*mirabile dictu*) and a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of the disposal of part of the funds, as a gift of an architectural nature.

CLEMENT R. NEWKIRK, *Secretary*

Chicago.

The October meeting was held in conjunction with the Armour Institute of Technology, Illinois Society of Architects, Chicago Architectural Club, the Architects Club of Chicago and other professional and art organizations to welcome Mies van der Rohe as head of the School of Architecture at Armour Institute, and was attended by 700 people. The speakers were as follows: William Emerson, Frank Lloyd Wright, H. T. Heald, Mies van der Rohe, Eliel Saarinen, Rexford New-Comb.

CARL E. HEIMBRODT, *Secretary*

Cleveland.

In September the Cleveland Chapter together with other civic and public institutions protested the awarding, by the Cleveland School Board, of an entire $5,000,000.00 School Building Program partially financed through a P. W. A. grant, to one architect.

Believing that this action was in violation of the spirit of P. W. A., as well as the fact that the architect's fee was to be 6.8% of the building costs, which was in excess of what other reputable and experienced Cleveland architectural firms felt was justified in this case, since all the preliminary studies for the proposed new building had already been prepared by the School Board staff and were to be strictly adhered to, the Cleveland Chapter felt obligated to voice its disapproval.

After numerous meetings with the School Board and civic bodies, as well as the Regional Director for P. W. A. and telegrams of protest to Harold Ickes, Administrator of Public Works Administration, Washington, D. C., the Cleveland School Board, on October 25, awarded the entire building program to one architect, however, on a 5% fee basis, a reduction from the original fee offered of 1.8%, and representing an approximate saving of $80,000.00. This action taken by the School Board was based upon recommendation of the Associate P. W. A. Director in Ohio, who said, "P. W. A.

would pay their 45% grant based on a 5% architectural fee, the scale fixed by The American Institute of Architects."

This represented a distinct savings to the Cleveland taxpayers, and the Cleveland Chapter can report that it took a leading part in its civic duty and obligation to the community.

FRANCIS K. DRAZ, *Secretary*

Connecticut.

Louis A. Walsh, of Waterbury, was named chairman of the Chapter's Committee on City Planning at a meeting of the committee held recently in Hartford. Other members of the committee are Leonard Asheim of Bridgeport, Herbert Gibson of Hartford, George H. Gray of New Haven, Lorenzo Hamilton of Meriden, William Provoost of Stamford and Philip Sunderland of Danbury.

Thomas Raymond Ball, A. I. A., Republican, was elected United States Representative from the second district of Connecticut. Mr. Ball has also served as representative in the Connecticut State Legislature. He has always been active in A. I. A. affairs and served on many chapter committees. The Connecticut Chapter extends its best wishes to Tommy Ball for a successful term in Washington.

HERBERT GIBSON, JR., *Secretary*

Detroit.

An event unique in the Chapter's history occurred on November 8 with the beginning simultaneously of thirty-six small houses by as many builders in the development of a two-block area by the Greater Detroit Home Builders' Association.

Every house has been designed, and will be supervised by, an architect, member of Architects' Small Homes Association of Michigan, a unit in the Federal Home Building Service Plan. The site plan was studied by their committee and the project will serve as a demonstration of the best to be offered by the combined efforts of architects and builders. This marks the first time that the two have worked together as organizations.

With this demonstration project, which is receiving most favorable publicity and will undoubtedly attract thousands when opened, it is hoped to prove what we have contended, that an architect does add value to a house. If this be true then there's nothing to worry about, for the architect can get the compensation he deserves.

TALMAGE C. HUGHES, *Secretary*

Florida North.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Florida North Chapter was held in the Roosevelt Hotel, Monday, November 14th, (having been postponed from October.) An interesting and instructive meeting was augmented greatly by the inspirational talk of Prof. Rudolph Weaver, Dean of Architecture at the University of Florida. Prof. Weaver's subject matter was "Education", urging all Chapter members to become "Mentors" and help train the young graduates in the general trend of architecture. He teaches the "Project and Functional Methods" of architecture and has received many inquiries from other Colleges concerning this system which he inaugurated at the University of Florida.

The State Convention of the Florida Association of Architects was held in Jacksonville, December 9 and 10. The Florida North Chapter rendered much assistance to the Association in preparing for the event, one of the outstanding features of which was the presence of Charles D. Maginnis, President of The Institute.

LEE ROY SHEFTALL, *Secretary*

Florida South.

Due to the fact that the South Florida area was one of the first sections of the country to show a good volume of building following the extremely bad years, the past few years have seen a very large increase in the number of practicing architects in the area.

In the Greater Miami section in particular, the proportion of registered architects to population is about five or six times that of the United States as a whole. As a result the intense competition has tended to lower the standard of fees and practice to a point where a severe strain has been put on those architects who have tried to maintain a high standard.

In an effort to enlist all architects of the district in a movement toward some betterment in the profession, the Executive Committee of the Chapter is mailing the A. I. A. Document "Professional Practice of Architects" to all registered architects in the

jurisdiction of the Chapter, accompanied by an appropriate letter.

GEORGE H. SPOHN, *Secretary*

Kentucky.

The regular October meeting was postponed on account of an annual meeting of the Association of Kentucky Architects on October 27 for the purpose of adopting revised by-laws and electing new officers and directors. This meeting and the reorganization of the Association of Kentucky Architects was largely due to the efforts of the members of the Kentucky Chapter and to the solicitations of The Institute through its representatives, Walter R. McCornack, John R. Fugard, Leigh Hunt and the very active Institute Committee on State Organization.

Leigh Hunt came from Milwaukee to attend the meeting on October 27 and rendered splendid service in helping to revise the by-laws, reorganize the Association, and conduct the meeting. From 7:30 A. M. to 10:30 P. M. Mr. Hunt was hard at it and went back home with the knowledge that he, more than anyone else, had helped to revive and reorganize the Association of Kentucky Architects and send it forth to promote the architectural profession in Kentucky. We hope that the Association will prove to be a power and force for better architectural service and conditions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

OSSIAN P. WARD, *Secretary*

Maine.

At the November meeting Mr. Kilton Andrew discussed the changes and needs of the lumber industry, the alterations in grading rules, and the lumber dealers' point of view in relation to small houses. Mr. Drummond assisted Mr. Andrew in showing the Weyerhauser sound film entitled "Timber is a Crop".

The secretary notes that our first president, John Calvin Stevens, has passed his eighty-third birthday and is in active practice. His son, John Howard Stevens, and his grandson, John Calvin Stevens, 2nd, are associated with him.

The Chapter is preparing a bill for the 1939 session of the Legislature in regard to the licensing of architects in Maine.

JOSIAH T. TUBBY, *Secretary*

Minnesota.

Messrs. Donald P. Setter, Henri B. Brunet and Lloyd B. Knutsen, Associates, and Melvin C. Stenrud, Junior Associate were introduced as new Chapter members.

R. V. L. Haxby as Chairman of the Committee on Practice lead the program for the meeting. Wm. C. Channing spoke of the early days of Architectural practice in Minneapolis. Charles Frost of Willmar discussed the problems facing a young architect opening a new office in a small community.

General discussion followed touching on the question of fees on W. P. A. work, the question of ethics arising when an architect does the interior decorating on one of his own projects, the relationship between architect and draftsman as to vacations, working hours per year, unemployment, recognition of draftsmen who bring work into an office, etc., and the question of improving the contract between architect and owner.

EDWIN W. KRAFFT, *Secretary*

New Jersey.

Clement W. Fairweather, Secretary of the Chapter, has sent a most entertaining account of the recent joint meeting of the New Jersey Chapter and the New Jersey Society of Architects, at which President Charles D. Maginnis was present.

Lack of space prevents Mr. Fairweather's report from being printed in this issue but it will appear in the January number.

New York.

The convention of the architects of New York State held in New York City in October attracted several hundred participants. While the architects from the Metropolitan District and of The A. I. A. were naturally in the majority, there was a very fair representation of architects from other localities and organizations. All in all, progress seemed definitely to be made toward a sense of mutual interest among the architects of the State irrespective of locality or affiliation, and toward a belief that something definite can be accomplished.

With its issue of October 20, 1938, the New York Chapter has instituted a monthly news bulletin under the editorship of Ward W. Fenner, A. I. A. In format it borrows gratefully from the

excellent "BULLETIN" of the Southern California Chapter. The issuance of this new Chapter publication brought to light the strange coincidence that the present editor's father, the late Burt L. Fenner, had been responsible for an almost exactly similar publication of the New York Chapter a generation ago, quite unknown to his son. Judging from the first number, the present editor will produce a lively and effective sheet.

The Committee on Meetings and Public Information has announced the following program of Chapter meetings on the next-to-last Tuesday evenings of each month during the winter: November 22, "Unions in Architects' Offices"; December 20, "The Public School Problem"; January 24, "Educate the Public"; February 24, "Evening of Entertainment."

ROBERT B. O'CONNOR, *Secretary*

Northern California.

An exhibition of architecture presented by the Chapter at the San Francisco Museum of Art from October 1 through November 6 has been widely pronounced outstanding for its effective and unusual features and the quality of the work shown.

Aimed to bring forcibly and dramatically before the public a representative review of interesting and meritorious works of architecture consistent with the contemporary outlook, the exhibit at the same time reflected a broad front of appeal both in type of design and manner of execution.

To achieve this aim had been a matter of utmost concern. The solution was found in Ernest Born, widely known architect, formerly associated with the Architectural Forum, who was placed in full charge of the selection, arrangement and presentation of the material. Dr. Grace McCann Morley, Director of the Museum, cooperated in every way to help insure that the exhibition would be both vigorous and appealing in its appearance.

Bringing into full sway his versatile and brilliant ability, Mr. Born designed the exhibit in a manner novel and somewhat startling from a display standpoint. Visitors were almost brought "into" the picture when confronted with unusually large photographs many of which were 30″ x 40″ in size. These were hung on staggered walls built into the gallery which also carried the lesser photographs of each exhibit together with scale plans and descriptions emphasizing the salient points of the various designs.

While the exhibition was sponsored directly by the Chapter, invitations were extended to all licensed architects of Northern California to submit examples of their work. From these a selection of particularly outstanding designs was made, in all respects worthy of the fine reputation that California architects so justly enjoy.

JAMES H. MITCHELL, *Secretary*

Oregon.

The joint meeting of the Oregon and Washington Chapters held at Timberline Lodge, November 5 and 6, was attended by 80 members, associates and wives (exactly 40 from each Chapter), delegates coming from Twin Falls, Idaho, Spokane, Bellingham and Klamath Falls, as well as from Seattle, Tacoma and Portland.

Guests convened at the Multnomah Hotel in Portland early Saturday morning and the out-of-state delegation formed the first caravan for a side trip to inspect the Bonneville project. The second caravan traveled directly to Timberline and guests arrived all afternoon. Saturday was spent admiring the new building, while the evening was devoted to a dinner and entertainment.

A joint business meeting was held Sunday at which, among others, the following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That the Oregon and Washington Chapters of The American Institute of Architects in Joint Meeting assembled on November 5 and 6, 1938, at Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood, Oregon, do hereby commend the Works Progress Administration and the U. S. Forest Service for the high architectural standards conceived and maintained throughout the design and construction of this building but regret that suitable recognition in the form of a bronze plaque was not given to the men who were technically responsible for such an outstanding creation. It was felt that such a building cannot be developed without architectural ability of a very high order and that such ability should be given proper public recognition, and it was further

Resolved, That both the Oregon and Washington Chapters of The American Institute of Architects in Joint Session assembled go on record as favoring adequate legislative action by both states for control

and proper development of land use on both sides of the Columbia River to preserve the natural beauty of this region.

At the end of the business session, which involved many other matters professional in nature, it was decided that the two Chapters exchange monthly minutes and keep each one posted on the others activities, and that in lieu of adjournment a Recess be called of not more than one year's duration and that the next Joint Meeting be held at Spokane and Grand Coulee.

VICTOR N. J. JONES, *Secretary*
Wash. State Chapter.
ROI L. MORIN, *Secretary*
Oregon Chapter.

Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh Chapter is definitely considering the possibility of an Exhibit of architectural work of the Members of The Pittsburgh Chapter at the Carnegie Galleries. The Exhibit would probably be held in the Spring of 1939 and it is expected that all the work exhibited will be exclusively that of Chapter Members. It is anticipated, however, that the Department of Architecture of the Carnegie Institute of Technology will be invited to exhibit student work of that department at the same time.

RODY PATTERSON, *Secretary*

Saint Paul.

A dinner meeting of the Saint Paul Chapter was held November 14, 1938 at the Womens' City Club with eighteen members and guests present.

Our guest speakers were Messrs. T. L. O'Gara and N. T. MacKenzie. The subject of their discussion was "Better Small Houses". Their principles of economically sound construction and good architectural design were incorporated in a charming exhibit of approximately fifty small house plans. These plans were prepared for them by several prominent architects from various parts of the country. Their program, as outlined, in no way infringes on the practice of the individual architect. Most of their services are rendered to localities which are not served in any way by the architectural profession.

George F. Lindsay, Honorary Member of The Institute, gave a brief review of his "Progress Report on an Analysis of the Problem of Low Cost Housing for the Lower Income Group".

PAUL M. HAVENS, *Secretary*

San Diego.

Most of the October meeting was taken up with the report of the proceedings of the convention of the State Association of California Architects held earlier in the month at San Francisco. Many members of the Chapter attended the convention.

The discussion of this report was mainly concerned with the proposed amendments to the California Act to Regulate the Practice of Architecture which the State Association intends to present at the next meeting of the Legislature.

Several changes are contemplated in the Act, the most important of which are as follows:

1. Reducing the Examining Board from ten to five members who shall always meet as one board. (The Board now meets as two District Boards with joint meetings once or twice a year.)

2. The elimination of the "Written Notice" clause, which allows a man to practice if he has notified the owner in writing that he is not an architect.

3. The addition of a definition of the practice of architecture.

4. Amplification of the disciplinary proceedings which the Examining Board shall take against licensed men who practice in violation of the Act.

LOUIS J. GILL, *Secretary*

South Texas.

The regular monthly business-dinner meeting was held at Ye Old College Inn, home of the south's finest steaks.

To the fine steaks undoubtedly must go the credit for the large and enthusiastic turnout. However, for a surprise "dessert" the members were treated to a delicate and delightful "morsel" in the private showing of a number of water colors by C. H. Kiefner.

As an added attraction, none the less "nourishing" to those members "starved" for the finer side of the profession, a master draftsman's exhibit was held in which all those attending participated. It suffices to say we challenge the profession as a whole to display more talent than our own modest group—honestly though, it was entertaining.

THEO. F. KELLER, *Secretary*

Southern California.

This Chapter has been very active, with a larger attendance at meetings than in any previous year.

During the past eight months, a committee has been preparing a Chapter book on the residential architecture of Southern California, and a comprehensive program of public information is being planned for the coming eighteen months. The Chapter has employed a professional publicity expert to outline and get out a comprehensive program on behalf of the architectural profession.

The November meeting was devoted to the subject of slum clearance and low-cost housing, with representatives of the City Housing Authority in attendance. Mr. William Burk delivered an excellent address on "Social Aspects of Housing".

Our Annual meeting in September was unusually interesting, with an attendance of 150 members and guests. An exhibition of original architectural drawings by Thomas Jefferson was presented by the Huntington Library in connection with this meeting.

EDGAR BISSANTZ, *Secretary*

Southern Pennsylvania.

The Chapter held its regular fall meeting in the Engineering Building of the Pennsylvania State College on November 14th.

In honor of this meeting Professor C. L. Harris, in charge of the engineering and architectural department had collected a very interesting exhibition of students work showing that the school is doing some very excellent Beaux Art work as well as giving the students a good foundation in practical engineering.

M. Edwin Green reported on legislative matters and a lengthy discussion followed where the relationship between the registered architects and registered engineers was thoroughly gone into. The members agreed that the new legislative program for architects in Pennsylvania will be a great benefit to both professions. The Chapter passed a resolution to have their Legislative Committee work in full cooperation with the State Board of Examiners and the Legislative Committee of the Pennsylvania Association of Architects.

ROLF G. LODDENGAARD, *Secretary*

Utah.

The Utah Chapter in cooperation with the Salt Lake *Tribune-Telegram* have just sponsored a "Better Homes" exhibit. The show was visited by some 5,000 persons in a community of 150,000.

The Chapter offered a prize of a model children's playhouse, 8 x 12 feet for the best essay on "Why My Dad Should Employ An Architect to Design Our New Home" which was won by Barbara Nauthton, eleven year old school girl.

LLOYD W. MCCLENAHAN, *Secretary*

Washington, D. C.

The Washington chapter's vigorous approach toward contemporary professional objectives is inviting the active participation of old and new members. The November meeting again presented this keynote of realism and record attendance resulted. Eager endorsement followed Chapter President Justement's summary of current chapter actions: legislative pressure to tighten the registration law, to curb the expansion of architectural civil service offices and to stimulate competition for public work in the District of Columbia. The guest of the evening, Col. McCoach, newly appointed Engineer Commissioner of the District, voiced a sympathetic understanding and left the Chapter in the happy prospect of continued fruitful cooperation with the civic body.

Most cheered event in line of chapter rejuvenation is the creation of the Chapter atelier. Its chief sire is our beloved Cunningham, and at present, youngsters and old-timers are competing on a design problem which will answer, it is hoped, the anxious question confronting American architecture: From Beaux Arts to Bauhaus to where?

In the field of civic design the chapter announced the formation of an "Architects' Waterfront Committee". Eminent engineers, city planners, and landscape architects are joining this working committee in its important task of studying the planning possibilities of Washington's greatest asset: its waterfront.

ALFRED KASTNER, *Secretary*

Westchester.

This Chapter is very much concerned over the limited-fee-for-a-limited-service plan already approved by some Chapters of The Institute. In a territory where most of the work is residential it is felt that the publicity given to this plan (sponsored by the Federal Home Loan Bank and Westchester Savings and Loan Associations) will inevitably affect the public's ideas of proper architect's fees.

It might be possible, in publicising this plan, to emphasize the less-than-standard fee for small houses up to $5,000 or even $7,500 as being arrived at for the purpose of helping those in the lower income brackets, at the same time emphasizing the regular fee of 6% to 10% and more for larger houses, but this Chapter has other reasons for opposing this plan and at the moment sees no reason for changing its stand recently taken and expressed as follows:

"It has come to our attention that the services of a small group of architects have been offered on a limited-fee-for-a-limited-service basis in Westchester County. It is a matter of record that the Westchester Chapter has disapproved of any such plan for architectural services on the grounds that it is contrary to the public welfare.

"The Chapter has expressed its belief that the investment can best be safeguarded by having the full services of the architect, which include individual design, specifications, details and full supervision.

"The fact that an architect's name is connected with a project means that he assumes full architectural responsibility. To assume this responsibility with only partial service would seem to be unfair to himself, the public and the mortgagor."

ROBERT H. SCANNELL, *Secretary*

THE OCTAGON

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